

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-5 as follows. Please add new claims 6-11 as follows.

1. (Original) A tooth block to be attached to a bucket for a shovel machine, wherein the tooth block is removably attached to the bucket through an adapter member provided at the lip of the bucket, being projected therefrom, and the tooth block is provided with a masking portion for masking the gap produced between the lip of the bucket and the base of the tooth block when the tooth block is attached to the lip of the bucket, the masking portion being provided outside the base of the tooth block such that the masking portion is overlapped with the outer surface of the lip of the bucket, and is connected and fixed to the bucket through a fixing portion.
2. (Original) The tooth block to be attached to a bucket for a shovel machine according to claim 1, wherein said fixing portion is configured such that the masking portion is tightened and fixed to said bucket.
3. (Currently Amended) The tooth block to be attached to a bucket for a shovel machine according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said fixing portion comprises a bar-like member to be inserted into the overlapping portions of the bucket and the masking portion, and contacting members which are provided for this bar-like member to be in contact with the inner and outer surfaces of the overlapping portions, respectively, for sandwiching these portions.
4. (Currently Amended) The tooth block to be attached to a bucket for a shovel machine according to claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein said masking portion is integrally formed with the base of the tooth block.
5. (Currently Amended) A bucket for a shovel machine, wherein the bucket comprises the tooth block according to claim 1 ~~to 4~~.

6. (New) The tooth block to be attached to a bucket for a shovel machine according to claim 2, wherein said fixing portion comprises a bar-like member to be inserted into the overlapping portions of the bucket and the masking portion, and contacting members which are provided for this bar-like member to be in contact with the inner and outer surfaces of the overlapping portions, respectively, for sandwiching these portions.
7. (New) The tooth block to be attached to a bucket for a shovel machine according to claim 2, wherein said masking portion is integrally formed with the base of the tooth block.
8. (New) The tooth block to be attached to a bucket for a shovel machine according to claim 3, wherein said masking portion is integrally formed with the base of the tooth block.
9. (New) A bucket for a shovel machine, wherein the bucket comprises the tooth block according to claim 2.
10. (New) A bucket for a shovel machine, wherein the bucket comprises the tooth block according to claim 3.
11. (New) A bucket for a shovel machine, wherein the bucket comprises the tooth block according to claim 4.